

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5576

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UN, BG
SUBJ: 33RD UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: BANGLADESH VIEWS

REF: STATE 225331

1. ON SEPT 12 DCM AND ECONOFF CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR-
GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AFFAIRS FAROOQ SOBHAN
TO HIGHLIGHT U.S. VIEWS ON THE 33RD UNGA AND PRESENT AIDE
MEMOIRE BASED ON TALKING POINTS IN REFTEL. SOBHAN MADE THE
FOLLOWING COMMENTS ABOUT THE BDG'S APPROACH TO THE SESSION.

2. BANGLADESH'S MAJOR OBJECTIVE AT THE 33RD UNGA IS TO WIN
SUPPORT FOR ITS BID FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP. IN
RESPONSE TO THE DCM'S AFFIRMATION THAT U.S. TRADITIONALLY
SUPPORTED REGIONAL CONSENSUS, SOBHAN SAID IT APPEARS THAT
ONLY THREE ASIAN NATIONS WILL SUPPORT JAPAN. HE HOPED THE
U.S. WOULD THEREFORE SUPPORT BANGLADESH.

3. BECAUSE OF ITS CIRCUMSTANCES AS A LEAST DEVELOPED NATION,
BANGLADESH SEEKS TO PLAY AN ESPECIALLY ACTIVE ROLE IN THE UN
IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT MEASURES. HOWEVER, IN
GENERAL, THE BDG SUPPORTS A MODERATE APPROACH TO POLI-
TICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES IN UN FORA, AS BEST TACTIC
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FOJ ACCOMMODATION AND RESULTS.

4. THERE IS STILL A GAP BETWEEN LDC GOALS AND ACTUAL
ACHIEVEMENTS IN NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE. ALTHOUGH SOME
PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, E.G. THE GENEVA MINISTERIAL
DECISION ON DEBT RELIEF, BDG IS DISAPPOINTED WITH
PROGRESS TO DATE.

5. BDG SUPPORTS GREATER SOLIDARITY, COOPERATION AND SELF-RELIANCE AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, BOTH AS A TACTIC FOR PERSUADING DEVELOPING NATIONS TO OFFER GREATER SUPPORT AND BECAUSE "IN THE END, WHETHER OR NOT BANGLADESH SUCCEEDS DEPENDS ON US".

6. BDG SUPPORTS SADAT INITIATIVE AND MODERATE APPROACH FOR MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, BUT IS CONCERNED THAT RADICAL ARAB STATES WHO OFTEN ARE SUPPORTED BY OTHERS IN THE AFRO-ASIAN GROUP MAY USE APPEAL TO "SOLIDARITY" (E.G. OF NAM) TO ISOLATE EGYPT.

7. BDG WANTS STRENGTHENED UN ROLE FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES. PROGRESS TO DATE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA IS AN EXAMPLE OF UN'S POTENTIAL. BDG HOPES A SIMILAR APPROACH CAN BE FOUND FOR RHODESIA AND SUPPORTS THE ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE FOR NEGOTIATIONS AMONG ALL RHODESIAN NATIONALIST FORCES, INCLUDING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

8. ALTHOUGH BANGLADESH IS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN ARMS NEGOTIATIONS, IT STRONGLY SUPPORTS UN ACTION FOR DISARMAMENT AS PROPOSED IN SSOD AND HOPES FOR PROGRESS IN THIS AREA.

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9. BDG HAS NO SPECIAL VIEWS ON U.S.-BACKED PROPOSAL FOR UN CONFERENCE ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES IN 1981 AND WILL VOTE WITH THE MAJORITY.
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